

We claim:

- Sub A2
1. A set of elements for building easily disassembled structures, each element comprising: a flat structure having front and rear surfaces and at least one edge defining a perimeter common to the two surfaces; and a plurality of protrusions on at least one of the surfaces, each protrusion having a body portion extending away from the element; wherein the body portions of one or more protrusions, when in abutting contact with an edge of another element, anchor the other element by preventing the edge of the other element from sliding beyond the point or locus defined by the one or more protrusions; whereby structures may be assembled from a plurality of elements by suitable operations including leaning a first element against a second and anchoring the first element against sliding by placing an edge of the first element in abutting contact with at least one protrusion of a third element or anchoring the edge by placing it on a suitable non-slip surface; and balancing an element on top of one or more other elements.

- Sub B1
2. A set of elements according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the elements is planar.
3. A set of elements according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the elements comprises a polygonal card.
4. A set of elements according to claim 3, wherein at least one of the elements comprises a rectangular card having two planar surfaces and four linear edges.
5. A set of elements according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the elements is provided with protrusions on both surfaces thereof.

Sub
B1

- Sub
A3

Sub
Vol

element.

16. A set of elements according to claim 1, wherein the body portion of each protrusion is tapered inwardly as it extends away from the surface of the element.
17. A set of elements according to claim 16, wherein the protrusions are frusto-conical.
18. A set of elements according to claim 1, wherein the protrusions are substantially in the form of a right cylinder.
19. A set of elements according to claim 1, wherein the protrusions are hollow.
20. A set of elements according to claim 1, wherein the protrusions are solid.
21. A method of building an easily disassembled structure using the elements according to claim 1, comprising the steps of:
 - (i) arranging one or more initial elements to form an initial structure; and
 - (ii) developing the structure by adding one or more additional elements thereto by repeatedly performing as desired any one or more of the following operations:
 - a) identifying a formation of the structure capable of supporting an added element when a surface of the added element is balanced on the formation; and placing the added element on the formation so that the added element is stably supported thereby;
 - b) identifying a formation of the structure capable of supporting a leaning added element when an edge of the added element is anchored by a suitable non-slip surface or is anchored by at least one first portion of the

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- formation preventing undesirable sliding of the added element, and at least one second portion of the formation supports the leaning added element in a balanced arrangement; and
placing the added element on the formation so that the leaning added element is stably supported thereby;
- c) identifying a formation of the structure capable of supporting an added substructure, the substructure comprising a plurality of elements whereby the added substructure is supported by balancing, in accordance with the principle of operation (a) or leaning, in accordance with the principle of operation (b) or a combination of both; and placing the added substructure to the formation so that the resulting formation is stable.
22. A method of claim 21, wherein the at least one first portion comprises two or more protrusions.
23. The method of claim 21, wherein the operations further include the addition of temporary cards to develop the structure, further development of the structure so that the temporary cards are no longer structurally required and subsequent removal of the temporary cards.